

Mr. Speaker, Hugh Errol Boston has achieved his life ambition in establishing his own business and has used his success to give back to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

#### TRIBUTE TO OYSTER BILINGUAL SCHOOL

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as the Hispanic Heritage Celebration—2003 draws to a close, I rise to pay tribute to Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, a pearl right here in the Nation's Capital. For over 30 years, Oyster School has proudly served the Hispanic community in Washington, DC.

The Oyster School, named after former D.C. Public Schools Superintendent, James F. Oyster, first opened its doors in the 1920's.

By 1970, the Oyster School was home to many immigrant families from Central America who began to settle in the Adams Morgan neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

These new parents along with community activists pushed for the creation of a bilingual program, one that would best instruct their children, whose first language was Spanish.

In the spring of 1971, the D.C. Public School Board approved a two-way bilingual program at the Oyster School. From the beginning, the Oyster School program was a partnership effort.

In addition to support from D.C. Public Schools, Oyster Bilingual Elementary School received Federal funding and a grant from the Ford Foundation for teacher training, curriculum development, and program evaluation.

As a result, a generation before the "No Child Left Behind Act" weaved "scientifically-based research" into the education lexicon, Oyster School put into place a scientifically-based model for teaching children to achieve to high standards in two languages—Spanish and English.

At the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School, approximately half the students speak Spanish as their first language and half the students speak English.

Students come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic groups. This year, 35 percent of Oyster's students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. All students are expected to master the D.C. Public Schools content in both languages. Oyster students measure up and test well in both languages, consistently placing Oyster Bilingual Elementary School in the top ten of the over 100 elementary schools in the District of Columbia.

The Oyster Bilingual Elementary School is a model for the Nation. It has received numerous accolades, including a citation for excellence from the U.S. Department of Education and an Exemplary School Award from the National Association for Bilingual Education.

Perhaps a more significant measure of the value of the Oyster Bilingual Elementary School experience is the fact that until D.C. Public Schools introduced a lottery system for admission, hundreds of parents would camp out for days in order to get a coveted "first come, first serve" slot at the school.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School has fostered a sense of community and shared values between the immigrant community and the largely upper-middle class residents of the Woodley Park neighborhood. When the school faced closure in the early 1990's because of its dilapidated facilities, the community rallied and formed the 21st century school fund.

Through this community-public-private partnership, the financing was made available to build the first new school building in the District of Columbia in 20 years—a beautiful new facility that will serve both the growing Hispanic community and the D.C. community at large.

Oyster Bilingual Elementary School's long-term success is a product of community involvement and public-private partnerships.

The school has produced many distinguished alumni who serve as role models and continue to serve the Hispanic community in our nation's capital. Among them are:

Mirna Amaya, a child development specialist who works at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in D.C.;

Nathaniel Beers, a doctor at Children's Hospital Medical Center;

Olga Artiga, a kindergarten teacher at Oyster. Her sister Connie Artiga Oliver runs the after-school care program at Oyster; and

Cecilia Arce, a library assistant and a parent of three children at Oyster.

As Oyster Bilingual Elementary School begins to serve a new generation of students I commend it for staying true to its mission, which states:

"We believe that native Spanish-speaking children will learn to perform better in English in an environment that respects their native language and provides continued growth in their native language. In addition, we believe that the education of English speaking children will be enriched by achieving competency in a second language at an age when achieving such competency is easiest."

Mr. Speaker, the administration at Oyster School is fulfilling this mission and I urge my colleagues in Congress to commend them for their efforts.

#### HONORING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. speaker, I rise today to belatedly mark the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, October 10, 2003. It nonetheless gives me great pleasure to report that Taiwan is a thriving democracy that guarantees and protects essential human rights of all its citizens.

Taiwan stands as a remarkable testament to what humankind is capable of when freedom and democracy combine to fuel the economic engine. Even with only 23 million citizens, Taiwan remains one of Asia's strongest economic "tigers". With the world's 17th largest economy and the world's 15th largest trade volume, Taiwan has made significant contributions to the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan remains a critical U.S. ally, and it is my hope that Taiwan will continue to serve as a beacon for freedom and democracy throughout East Asia.

Today I would like to extend my solidarity to the 23 million freedom loving citizens of Taiwan and their democratically elected leader, President Chen Shui-bian in commemoration of Taiwan's recent National Day of celebration.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ROY KING

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Roy King for his dedication to his community which has earned him the Thomas R. Fortune Exemplary Service Award.

Roy was born in Georgia and at the age of 6 months he and his family moved to Far Rockaway, NY, where he still resides.

Roy attended public elementary school and junior high schools and graduated from Far Rockaway High School. After high school, he attended Queens Borough Community College, receiving a degree in physical education.

As someone who loves to be around children, Roy applied for a position in security and was hired by the New York City Board of Education where he worked for several years. In 1977, Roy was hired as a counselor for the New York City Department of Social Services—Youth Division where he still works as a child care specialist at the Atlantic Diagnostic Center.

Roy was introduced to the Unity Democratic Club by J.J. Johnson, where he also is an active member of the Men's Council.

He has been a member of St. John Baptist Church in Rockaway Beach, NY for over 20 years where Elder J.D. Williams is the Pastor. He is a faithful member of the Usher Board and the Men's Ministry.

With his wife Anne, Roy has a beautiful home in Rockaway Beach, where they are raising three girls and two grandchildren. All his children and other children around him call him "Pa Pa". Roy feels blessed to have his mother and five siblings living in the Far Rockaway area as well.

Mr. Speaker, Roy King has shown that he is committed to his community through both his professional choices and participation in the Unity Democratic Club. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

#### URGING THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TO HELP RESOLVE A LONG STANDING DISPUTE

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Saudi Ambassador to the United States to help resolve a long standing dispute between another Saudi Prince—a cousin to the Ambassador—and a resident in my home state.

Nearly 20 years ago, Prince Abdul Aziz, son of Prince Salman, the current Governor of Riyadh, borrowed \$1.7 million from Bob Burch in Colorado.